

REMARKS

The April 18, 2011 Advisory Action has been carefully reviewed. In view of the arguments and amendments submitted herewith, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At the outset, it is noted that a shortened statutory response period of three months was set forth in the January 11, 2011 Final Official Action. Therefore, the initial due date for response was April 11, 2011. Accordingly, a petition for a 1 month extension is presented with this response, which is being filed within the one month extension period.

The Examiner has indicated in the April 18, 2011 Advisory Action that the amendments submitted with the April 11, 2011 Official Action response will not be entered because they allegedly raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Applicants hereby submit a new amendment to the claims which should place this application in condition for allowance.

In the January 11, 2011 Official Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 38-40, 43-47, 55, and 56 are allowed.

The Examiner also rejected claims 57-65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0001040 in view of U.S. Patent 5,902,610. Applicants continue to disagree with the Examiner's position for the reasons of record. However, in the sole interest of expediting prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended claim 57 to recite the features of claim 66, which was not included in the instant rejection. Indeed, the Examiner has only objected to claim 66 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner also states that claim 66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the rejection to claims 57-65 and the

objection to claim 66 have been overcome. The cancellation of the claims is without prejudice to Applicants right to file one or more continuing applications, as provided in 35 U.S.C. §120, on the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

The foregoing objection and rejection constitute all of the grounds set forth in the January 11, 2011 Official Action for refusing the present application.

In accordance with the instant amendment, claim 57 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the application including, for example, previous claim 66. No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of any of the amendments presented herewith.

In view of the reasons and amendments set forth in this response, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 57-65 and the objection of claim 66, as set forth in the January 11, 2011 Official Action, cannot be maintained. These grounds of objection and rejection are, therefore, respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the amendments and remarks presented herewith be entered in this application, since they are believed to clearly place the instant application in condition for allowance. In any event, the instant remarks are believed to eliminate certain issues and better define other issues which would be raised on appeal, should an appeal be necessary in this case.

In view of the remarks presented in the January 11, 2011 Official Action response and the amendments and remarks presented herewith, it is respectfully urged that the rejections set forth in the January 11, 2011 Final Official Action and maintained in the April 18, 2011 Advisory Action be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

In the event the Examiner is not persuaded as to the allowability of any claim, and it appears that any outstanding

issues may be resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the phone number given below.

If a fee is required or an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit the deposit account of the undersigned, Account No. 04-1406.

Respectfully submitted,
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